paratively small amount as security, the duty being left to be realised at the time of the actual sale. A total quantity of 166,948 maunds was removed to Alleppey by the licensees during 1104 under this arrangement.

Excise.

26. In accordance with the avowed policy of Government to promote temperance, advantage was taken of the opportunity afforded by the renewal of the biennial abkari contracts from the beginning of 1104 to reduce the number of country liquor (toddy and arrack) shops from 1,832 to 1,744 or by nearly five per cent. The rates of tree tax for cocoanut and palmyra were enhanced throughout the State and that for *choondapana* in the *pakuthies* on the Cochin frontier. The rates of duty on jaggery arrack and cocoanut toddy arrack were also enchanced. The price of ganja issued from treasuries to independent shop-keepers was raised from Bh.Rs.27-8 annas to Bh.Rs.30 per seer from the 1st April 1929. The system of local option was introduced experimentally in the Changanacherry Municipality in 1104. About 90 per cent. of the Municipal voters declared themselves in favour of the closing of liquor shops in the town.

Local Option.

Government accepted the decision of this large majority and ordered the shops to be closed tentatively, till the end of 1105. In order to afford greater facility for carrying out the spirit of this act of abstention on the part of the people the Government of its own accord ordered the only foreign liquor shop in the town also to be closed and reduced to two drams the quantity of arrack that could be possessed or transported without a license. The experiment is being watched with great interest.

Public Health.

27. Since the close of 1104, two new dispensaries and six new conservancy stations have been established. The outstanding feature, however, of public health activities in the State during the year was the adoption of a programme of public health work for the year 1105 presented by Dr. Jacocks, the representative of the Rockefeller Foundation. After a preliminary study of the local conditions, Dr. Jacocks prepared a comprehensive scheme of public health work as well as a modest programme of work to be carried out during the current year. This programme has been sanctioned and the work commenced. It comprises the survey of hookworm and malaria, entomological research on malaria, filariasis and plague, public health education and propaganda, maternity and child welfare, and the organisation of health units. The last two items are to be tried experimentally and their continuance and extension will depend upon the successful results of their practical working and the extent of the funds that could be made available in future years. Mr. M. K. Gopala Pillai, Superintendent, Vaccine Depot, and Mr. N. Krishnan Tampi, Health Officer under the Trivandrum Municipal Council, have been deputed to America for special training in public health for one year, the former on a fellow-

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